

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, there were five votes against the conference report on Defense appropriations. I was one of those five. I do not presume to speak for any of the others. I speak only for myself, and I will speak at length on my reasons next week.

But I just want to say tonight that by adopting that conference report we are embarking on the building of a fighter plane called the F-22, which is going to be twice as expensive as any fighter plane ever built. My guess is that it will cost somewhere between \$70 and \$100 billion when it is finished, for \$39 billion. We are embarking on a \$4 billion cost of retrofitting the Pacific fleet with D-5 missiles on ships which are already equipped with C-4's, and the C-4's will outlive the ships they are on. And for a lesser reason, of course, the \$331 million in the bill on the B-2 bomber.

Mr. President, if you want to spend this for new bombers, be my guest. If you don't, put it in spare parts. If they need spare parts for B-2's, let's appropriate the money to do it. But let's not use that kind of shenanigan to get \$331 million in here and hope we can crank up the B-2 program again. We are talking about ringing up new expenditures of close to \$100 billion in this. I will elaborate more extensively next week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the pending amendment be set aside so I can make some brief remarks about the judge that we just confirmed here in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO KATHARINE SWEENEY HAYDEN

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate has so promptly taken up the nomination of Katharine Sweeney Hayden to serve as a Federal district court judge for the District of New Jersey.

I had the high honor and privilege of recommending Judge Hayden to President Clinton this past February. After review, the President nominated her for this position on June 5, 1997. Judge Hayden's nomination was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee just weeks later, on July 10, and now we have her nomination before the full Senate. Judge Hayden's nomination has moved this quickly, I believe, because she is a superb candidate who will make an outstanding judge.

Mr. President, recommending candidates to the President for the Federal judiciary is one of the most important aspects of my job as a U.S. Senator. In

making these recommendations, I know that I am helping to place someone on the Federal bench who will hold the law and the lives of thousands of Americans in her hands. This is an awesome responsibility and the bedrock on which our Government is founded—a system of justice based on the law. It is incumbent upon us in confirming a judge to know that she has a deep love, respect, and knowledge of the law, an intellect equal to the task, the temperament to preside fairly in the courtroom and treat all with the respect they deserve, and the skill to manage her cases and dispense justice with deliberation but also expedition. Judge Hayden meets all these tests and more.

Mr. President, the respect and admiration for Judge Hayden among those who know her in New Jersey is unanimous. She possesses all of the skills and attributes needed to successfully shoulder the responsibilities of a Federal judge. Her experience in the U.S. attorney's office in New Jersey, in private legal practice, and as a State court judge provide a solid foundation for her upcoming Federal service.

Mr. President, I can also tell the Senate that Judge Hayden possesses a sharp intellect and a keen analytic ability, exceptional courtroom demeanor, and a strong work ethic. She is held in high regard by all segments of the New Jersey legal community, and is strongly supported by her peers on the State and Federal bench. This high evaluation is shared by the litigants and lawyers whom she has represented, worked with, or have appeared before her.

Katharine Sweeney Hayden will bring a breadth of experience—from the courtroom and elsewhere—to the Federal bench. She is currently a judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey—Criminal Division, sitting in Essex County.

Judge Hayden received her undergraduate degree from Marymount College in 1963, and attended graduate school at Bowling Green State University and Seton Hall University, where she earned a master's degree in English literature in 1972 and served as adjunct professor of English.

She received her law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law cum laude in 1975. Upon graduation, she clerked for the Justice Robert Clifford of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Upon completing her clerkship, Judge Hayden worked in the U.S. attorney's office in New Jersey, before establishing a private practice, which she pursued for 13 years. In recognition of her contribution to the legal profession and the esteem in which she is held by her colleagues, Katharine was elected as the first woman president of the Morris County Bar Association. She was appointed to the New Jersey bench in 1991.

Mr. President, I am pleased to report that Judge Hayden has received a "well

qualified" rating from the American Bar Association. This is the highest rating for a judicial nominee.

In recognition of her talent, organizational skills, and knowledge of the law, Judge Hayden has been selected to undertake special assignments by the judiciary and State Bar Association of New Jersey. These assignments include service on professional committees on ethics as well as judicial committees on administrative, professional, and substantive matters. Most recently, she was chosen to develop and preside as the first judge of a drug court soon to be established in Essex County, NJ.

Mr. President, I would also like to report to the Senate that Judge Hayden has stressed to me her view that a judge has a responsibility to be fair, to cherish the law and our Constitution, and to treat every lawyer and litigant before her with respect. She has also expressed to me her honor at being nominated for this appointment, and her deep commitment to serving the public and to administering justice fairly for all who appear before her.

Mr. President, Katharine Sweeney Hayden has all of the personal attributes and professional qualifications one could wish for in a judge. And then some.

So, Mr. President, I commend Katharine Hayden to the Senate and, anticipating her confirmation, congratulate her on her appointment, and wish her all the best in her new position. I am very proud to have recommended her to President Clinton. I hope she will serve on our district court for many years. I know she will serve with distinction, dispensing justice to each person who appears before her with compassion, fairness, and wisdom.

Mr. President, I close by saying the country will be well served by the services of Katherine Sweeney Hayden on the bench. We look forward to having her on the court in New Jersey, and I am sure we will continue to hear only the finest about the work she has done and the character that she has brought to her decisions as part of the court.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might be permitted to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE IMPORTATION OF SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT RIFLES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, about 2 weeks ago it came to my attention that several countries may be exporting semiautomatic assault weapons into this country despite the 1968 Gun Control Act, which limits the importation of these weapons.

When I asked the ATF to explain why these weapons were granted import permits, I learned that ATF, in the last few years, has not applied—or at least